

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A tapping device, comprising:

a tap holder, provided in a vertically movable shank body which can be freely attached to a rotating mold indexing device rotatably provided at a punch press, the tap holder having a tap at a lower end and being provided so as to be movable ~~[[only]]~~ in a vertical direction and urged upwards; ~~[[and]]~~

a downward movement transmitter ~~for receiving and transmitting~~ which receives and transmits a downward motion of a ram provided at the punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction to the tap holder, the downward movement transmitter being at an upper part of the shank body, and the downward motion of the ram, which is received by the downward movement transmitter, is transmitted to the upper part of the shank body; and

an elastic member positioned within a space provided in the shank body, the elastic member extending between a bottom of the space and an upper end of the tap holder so as to urge the tap holder upwards. .

4. (Original) A tapping device according to claim 3, wherein a workpiece brace is rotatably provided at a lower end of the shank body.

5. (Previously Presented) A tapping device according to claim 4, wherein an oil channel for guiding oil supplied from the ram to the tap is provided in the downward movement transmitter and the tap holder.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A tapping device, comprising:

a tap holder provided in a vertically movable shank body which can be freely attached to a rotating mold indexing device rotatably provided at a punch press, the tap holder having a tap at a lower end and being provided so as to be movable [[only]] in a vertical direction and urged upwards; [[and]]

a downward movement transmitter ~~for receiving and transmitting~~ which receives and transmits a downward motion of a ram provided at the punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction to the tap holder, wherein the downward motion of the ram, which is received by the downward movement transmitter, is transmitted to the upper part of the shank body and, wherein the downward movement transmitter has a pressing device ~~for pressing~~ which presses the tap holder downwards by fluid pressure supplied from the ram and a shock absorber; and

an elastic member positioned within a space provided in the shank body, the elastic member extending between a bottom of the space and an upper end of the tap holder so as to urge the tap holder upwards.

8. (Original) A tapping device according to claim 7, wherein a workpiece brace is rotatably provided at a lower end of the shank body.

9. (Previously Presented) A tapping device according to claim 8, wherein an oil channel for guiding oil supplied from the ram to the tap is provided in the downward movement transmitter and the tap holder.

10. (Canceled).